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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mass.: BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING.

ANNUAL REPORT

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT - FISCAL 1967

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Board of Registration in Nursing is required by statute to "make an annual report of the condition of nursing in the Commonwealth." This document represents the Board's attempt to comply with Section 78, Chapter 112, General Laws of Massachusetts. The report covers the fiscal year period July 1, 1966, through June 30, 1967.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

As an administrative agency within the governmental organization of the Commonwealth, the Board of Registration in Nursing has been delegated responsibility for the implementation of those statutes and sections of statutes that provide legal control of nursing practice. The fundamental purpose of the Board, therefore, is to safeguard the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth whenever such citizens are in situations that require the services of professional and practical nurses.

In fulfilling its purpose, the Board has two major functions: (1) licensure of professional and practical nurses and (2) determination and maintenance of educational standards in nursing that are basic to licensure through approval of nursing education programs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Qualifications for membership on the Board of Registration in Nursing are established by Section 13, Chapter 13, General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended.

The twelve member Board consists of five registered professional nurses, one licensed practical nurse, two hospital administrators, two qualified physicians, and two hospital trustees. Members are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms.

Membership during the major portion of the period covered by the report is outlined in Table 1.

| <u>Name of Member</u> | <u>Representation</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Harold A. Callahan | Hospital Administration |
| *Helen M. Curtis, R.N. | Diploma Nursing Education |
| Hazelle Ferguson, R.N. | Public Health Nursing |
| Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N. | Practical Nursing Education |
| Catherine T. Garrity, L.P.N. | Practical Nursing |
| Clive Hockmeyer | Hospital Trustees |
| Clinton N. Koufman, M.D. | Medical Profession |
| Mary A. Maher, R.N. | Collegiate Nursing Education |
| Paul Parks | Hospital Trustees |
| Nathan E. Silbert, M.D. | Medical Profession |
| R. Ashton Smith | Hospital Administration |
| Irene Theberge, R.N. | Nursing Service Administration |

*Deceased as of May 19, 1967; no replacement appointed before June 30, 1967.

TABLE 1: Membership Board of Registration in Nursing

The chairman is elected by Board members at the annual meeting. Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N. served as chairman during the period covered by the report.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

There were ten regular meetings of the Board of Registration in Nursing during the fiscal year 1966-67. A quorum was established at each meeting except the one held on March 22, 1967.

Minutes of each meeting are on file at the Board of Registration in Nursing office.

LICENSURE

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Ten examination sessions consisting of two days each were conducted during the 1966-67 period. A total of 2595 persons were examined, including 225 foreign nurses.

3326 original certificates of registration were issued, 1903 through examination and 1423 through endorsement by another board of nursing.

In addition, 65,961 renewal registrations were issued. Thus, a total of 69,287 professional nurses were registered in Massachusetts during fiscal 1967.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the number of registration certificates issued annually for a five-year period.

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Original Registrations</u> | | <u>Renewal Registrations</u> | <u>Total Registrations</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Examination</u> | <u>Endorsement</u> | | |
| 1963 | 1837 | 709 | 56,507 | 59,053 |
| 1964 | 1914 | 706 | 59,170 | 61,790 |
| 1965 | 1901 | 874 | 59,862 | 62,637 |
| 1966 | 1463 | 895 | 60,592 | 62,950 |
| 1967 | 1903 | 1423 | 65,961 | 69,287 |

TABLE 2 Comparison of Number of Professional Nurse Registration Certificates Issued Annually for Five Consecutive Years 1963-67.

The report for fiscal 1966 indicated that the number of original certificates issued through examination during that year did not represent a true statistic in that change in the schedule for administration of the professional nurse licensing examination caused some candidates to be included in the following fiscal year. The number of original certificates of registration issued through examination this year, therefore, compares favorably with the number issued in the years preceding 1966 but demonstrates no increase.

The major increase in original registrations is found in those issued to professional nurses through endorsement by another Board of Nursing. This area of original registration increased by 58.9% over the preceding year and by 100.7% over the number issued in 1963.

Renewal certificates increased in proportion to the number of original certificates. During fiscal 1967 registered professional nurse renewal certificates increased by 8.8% over those issued during 1966 and by 16.7% over the number issued during fiscal 1963.

It naturally follows that the total certificates issued to registered professional nurses will demonstrate comparable increases. Thus, the 69,287 certificates issued during fiscal 1967 demonstrates a 10.0% increase over the 62,950 issued in 1966 and a 17.3% increase over the 59,053 issued in 1963.

LICENSING OF PRACTICAL NURSES

Four examination sessions of one day each were conducted during fiscal 1967 for the purpose of licensing practical nurses with 1205 candidates being examined.

A total of 1261 original certificates of licensure were issued to practical nurses, 1113 through examination and 148 through endorsement. 18,739 renewal licenses were issued so that a total of 20,000 practical nurse licenses were issued during fiscal 1967.

A comparison of the number of practical nurses licensed each year for five consecutive years is presented in Table 3.

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Original Licenses Examination</u> | <u>Licenses Endorsement</u> | <u>Renewal Licenses</u> | <u>Total Licenses</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1963 | 706 | 53 | 15,619 | 16,378 |
| 1964 | 808 | 65 | 15,930 | 16,803 |
| 1965 | 847 | 96 | 16,842 | 17,785 |
| 1966 | 597 | 124 | 16,721 | 17,442 |
| 1967 | 1113 | 148 | 18,739 | 20,000 |

TABLE 3 Comparison of Number of Practical Nurse Licenses Issued Annually for Five Consecutive Years, 1963-67.

As with the 1966 registered nurse statistic, the licensed practical nurse statistical data for that year is distorted because of the calendar placement of the examination. This situation, however, had only a negligible effect on the number of renewal certificates and, therefore, only a slight effect on the total number of licensed practical nurse certificates. If these figures for fiscal 1966 and 1967 are compared, a 12.0% increase in renewal certificates and 14.6% increase in total licensed practical nurse certificates issued is demonstrated.

Table 3 shows an appreciable annual increase in the number of original licensed practical nurse certificates issued both through examination and through endorsement. During the five-year period, original licenses increased by 66.2% and total licenses by 22.1%.

PROFESSIONAL NURSE LICENSING EXAMINATION

Of the total number of candidates (2595) who wrote the professional nurse licensing examination, 692 candidates were repeating one or more of the five tests comprising the examination; 140 candidates were graduates of schools of professional nursing located in states other than Massachusetts and 225 were graduates of nursing schools located in 22 foreign countries. A total of 2215 candidates were graduates of schools of professional nursing located in Massachusetts with 1721 of these writing the examination for the first time.

1903 candidates or 73.3% of the total number of professional nurse licensing examination candidates passed the examination. Table 4 demonstrates the percent of candidates passing the examination according to the sources of candidates.

| <u>Source of Candidates</u> | <u>Percent Passing Examination</u> | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | <u>1st time</u> | <u>Repeat Exam</u> | <u>Total Candidates</u> |
| Graduates, Massachusetts Schools | 82.2 | 72.4 | 77.7 |
| Graduates, Out of State Schools | 81.7 | 64.0 | 78.5 |
| Graduates, Out of Country Schools | 27.7 | 33.0 | 30.6 |
| Total Candidates | 79.2 | 55.5 | 73.3 |

TABLE 4 Percent of Professional Nursing Licensing Examination Candidates Who Passed Examination, According to Source of Candidates

The Board of Registration in Nursing administers the State Board Test Pool Licensing Examinations available from the National League for Nursing Evaluation Service. These examinations are currently used by the Boards of Nursing in the 50 states. Table 4 demonstrates that the graduates of Massachusetts schools compare favorably with candidates who graduate from schools located in other states in their ability to pass the examination for registration. Less than one-third of the candidates who graduated from schools located in foreign countries passed the examination the first time with approximately one-third passing the examination after repeating it one or more times.

PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSING EXAMINATION

Of the 1205 candidates who wrote the practical nurse licensing examination, 1125 were graduates of approved schools of practical nursing located in the Commonwealth, 83 were repeating the examination, 14 were graduates of U.S. schools of practical nursing located outside of Massachusetts, and 2 were graduates of schools located outside of the United States.

11 candidates filed applications under Section 1, Chapter 371, Acts of 1956 as amended as graduates of schools for attendants prior to 1944. 40 of the candidates filed under the equivalency clause as withdrawals from schools of professional nursing. Therefore, approximately 93.0% of the practical nurse licensing examination candidates are graduates of schools located in Massachusetts. Of this group 97.0% passed the examination at the first writing and 92.3% of the total candidates passed the examination the first time that they took the examination.

CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES

Chapter 599, Acts of 1966 authorizes the Board of Registration in Nursing to "certify as authorized to practice professional nursing any person who furnishes proof, satisfactory to the Board, that he was graduated from an approved school of nursing and that he was registered to practice professional nursing in another jurisdiction." The certificate issued is valid for one year.

The certification statute became effective September, 1966. From that date through June 30, 1967, 115 applications for certification were processed and 72 certificates of authorization to practice as professional nurses were issued.

CERTIFIED STATEMENTS ISSUED TO OTHER BOARDS OF NURSING

Licensure through endorsement requires that the Board of Nursing in the state of original licensure provide a certified statement verifying that license to the Board of Nursing in the state in which the individual is making application for registration as a professional nurse or license as a practical nurse without examination.

During fiscal 1967, the Board of Registration in Nursing issued a total of 2356 certified statements to other Boards of Nursing, 1994 for registered nurses and 362 for licensed practical nurses. The number of certified statements issued for both categories of licensees showed a 14.2% increase over the preceding year.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND REINSTATEMENTS

The Board conducted 8 hearings on requests for reinstatement following revocation/suspension of registration or license. Five registered nurses and one licensed practical nurse were reinstated and two licensed practical nurses were denied reinstatement.

One registration was suspended without hearing because of the circumstances.

BASIC NURSING EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

TYPES AND NUMBERS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Board of Registration in Nursing is the legal accrediting agency for educational programs preparing professional and practical nurses.

There are three distinctive types of programs whose graduates are eligible for admission to the examination for registration as professional nurses (R.N.) They are:

1. Schools of Nursing that grant the diploma, usually administered by a hospital corporation;
2. Junior or Community College Programs that grant an associate degree in nursing;
3. College or University Programs that grant a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Practical Nursing Schools whose graduates are eligible for admission to the practical nurse licensing examination (L.P.N.) are categorized according to administrative control as hospital schools, vocational or trade school programs, and independent schools.

On June 30, 1967, there were 96 approved nursing education programs in Massachusetts. The number of each type is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| <u>Professional Nursing</u> | |
| Diploma | 45 |
| Associate Degree | 8 |
| Baccalaureate Degree | 6 |
| Total Professional Nursing Schools | 59 |
| <u>Practical Nursing</u> | |
| Hospital | 15 |
| Vocational | 19 |
| Independent | 3 |
| Total Practical Nursing Schools | 37 |

During the period covered by the report, two diploma schools officially closed: Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing and Cambridge City Hospital School of Nursing.

One baccalaureate program, Northeastern University, enrolled its first class in September, 1966, and three new practical nursing programs, located at Quincy Vocational-Technical School, Waltham Trade High School and Boston City Hospital, were opened during the year. Associate degree nursing programs at Berkshire and Massachusetts Bay Community College were granted an initial approval with the expectation that classes at each college would be admitted to the nursing programs in September, 1967.

ENROLLMENT, SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING

As of October 1, 1966, there were 7573 students enrolled in professional nursing education programs of which 2755 were admitted in the Fall, 1966.

Of the schools that admitted students in September, 1966, the largest school enrollment was 471 students, the smallest 33 students with the median enrollment 115 students.

Table 6 demonstrates a comparison of enrollment statistics for the three types of professional nursing programs for a two-year period.

| Type of Program | Total Enrollment | | Admissions | | Graduations | |
|----------------------|------------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| | 1965 | 1966 | 1965 | 1966 | 1965 | 1966 |
| Diploma | 5763 | 5462 | 2238 | 1869 | 1677 | 1601 |
| Associate Degree | 449 | 596 | 286 | 325 | 37 | 61 |
| Baccalaureate Degree | 1257 | 1515 | 397 | 561 | 235 | 233 |
| Totals | 7469 | 7573 | 2921 | 2755 | 1949 | 1895 |

TABLE 6 Enrollment Statistics, Schools of Professional Nursing 1965-1966

Total enrollment shows a 1.39% increase over that of 1965 with a 2.77% decrease in graduations and a 5.7% decrease in total admissions. It must be noted, however, that there is an increased enrollment in baccalaureate and associate degree programs with an obvious decrease in admissions to diploma schools.

Seventeen percent (17.0%) of the professional nursing students are enrolled in government-supported institutions (city and state) with eight percent (8.0%) being enrolled in state-supported schools.

ENROLLMENT, SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING

The annual reports of schools of practical nursing reported a total enrollment of 1,915 students on October 1, 1966, with 1415 of these having been admitted during 1966. The largest practical nursing school enrollment was 174 students, the smallest 12 students

A comparison of practical nursing school enrollment statistics for a two-year period is presented in Table 7.

| Type of Program | Total Enrollment | | Admissions | | Graduations | |
|-----------------|------------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|
| | 1965 | 1966 | 1965 | 1966 | 1965 | 1966 |
| Hospital | 584 | 702 | 494 | 521 | 380 | 394 |
| Vocational | 868 | 966 | 737 | 750 | 411 | 522 |
| Independent | 265 | 247 | 163 | 144 | 121 | 152 |
| Totals | 1717 | 1915 | 1394 | 1415 | 912 | 1068 |

TABLE 7 Enrollment Statistics, Schools of Practical Nursing 1965-1966

APPRAISAL OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH SURVEY

By its own regulation, the Board of Registration in Nursing requires that each school of professional and practical nursing be surveyed at least every three years. Enforcement of this regulation is dependent upon an office staff adequate in size and quality to conduct effective surveys and to report findings to members of the Board. Although such a staff is not currently available during the fiscal year surveys were conducted in relation to the following education programs:

City of Boston, Department of Health and Hospitals School
of Practical Nursing
Quincy Vocational-Technical Practical Nursing Program
Quincy City Hospital School of Nursing
Gardner State Hospital School of Practical Nursing
Simmons College Department of Nursing
Regional Community College at Greenfield
Holy Ghost Hospital School of Practical Nursing
Winthrop Community Hospital School of Practical Nursing
Atlantic Union College Department of Nursing
Berkshire Community College Department of Nursing
Massachusetts Bay Community College Department of Nursing
Beverly Hospital School of Nursing

ACTION ON CURRICULUM REVISIONS

The Board members reviewed and approved a revised curriculum submitted by each of the following schools:

Mount Auburn Hospital School of Nursing
Truesdale Hospital School of Nursing
Springfield Technical Institute Practical Nurse Program
Smith's Vocational School Practical Nurse Program
State College at Fitchburg Department of Nursing
Quincy City Hospital School of Nursing
Lowell General Hospital School of Nursing

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING RULINGS

The Board of Registration in Nursing voted rulings on

1. Defibrillation as a nursing function
2. Employment of nursing students

These rulings are on file at the Board office.

LEGISLATION

INCREASE IN FEES AND BIENNIAL RENEWAL

Legislation on behalf of the Board of Registration in Nursing to increase fees and to cause biennial renewal of registrations and licenses was filed during the 1967 legislative session. The legislative proposal has not been passed by the General Court as of the date of this report.

ELIMINATION OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

Chapter 195, Acts of 1967 was signed into law on May 1, 1967. This statute removes the requirement of United States citizenship or declaration of intention to become a citizen for applicants for registration as professional nurses and licensing as practical nurses.

AMENDMENT TO DEFINITIONS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PRACTICAL NURSING

Chapter 299, Acts of 1967 was signed into law on May 23, 1967. This statute amends exemption #5 contained in Section 80B, Chapter 112 which provides the definitions of professional and practical nursing.

FINANCES

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING FEES

The Board of Registration in Nursing currently charges the following fees:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Application for R.N. | \$10.00 |
| Application for L.P.N. | 10.00 |
| Certified Statement to another Board | 2.00 |
| Certification to practice professional nursing | 10.00 |
| Evaluation of Foreign Nurse (for Visa Purposes) | 5.00 |
| Renewal R.N. | 1.00 |
| Renewal L.P.N. | 1.00 |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - FISCAL 1967

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Income | \$146,972.72 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Examination Proctors | 1,356.00 |
| Advertising | 65.46 |
| Printing & Xerox | 1,488.11 |
| Examination Materials | 19,721.00 |
| Shipping | 65.20 |
| Postage | 9,328.17 |
| General Supplies | 1,928.60 |
| Telephone | 958.74 |
| Rental Fees | 864.00 |
| Transportation of Supplies | 38.72 |
| Capital Outlay | 578.18 |
| Salaries | 69,780.90 |
| Travel | 775.00 |
| Accounts Payable | 1,224.00 |
| Total expenses | \$108,172.08 |
| Difference Income and Expenses | 38,800.64 |

Eleanor A. Gaffney, R.N.
Chairman

Winifred V. Shuman, R.N.
Executive Secretary